

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 7-10 were rejected and Claims 3-6 were objected to in the Office action dated July 27, 2005. By the forgoing Amendment, Claims 1, 2 and 7 have been canceled, and Claims 3 and 8 have been amended to more distinctly claim the present invention and put the claims in an allowable form. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the specification by this Amendment. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In the Office Action, Claims 3 and 8 were objected to because of informalities that rendered the claims grammatically incorrect. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 3 and 8 (indicated to contain allowable subject matter) in independent form and to recite, in part, "over a top portion" thereby making the clauses grammatically correct. Applicant request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection since Claims 3 and 8 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 3,104,436 to Ostolaza. The Examiner infers that the present invention was patented or described in Ostolaza. While this amendment herein cancels Claims 1, 2 and 7, and therein removes the subject rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that Ostolaza does not teach nor disclose a safety buckle structurally having "first and second distal ends that are bent backwards to form an approximately obtuse angle" with the rear surface of the buckle, as does the present invention.

The Ostolaza reference is directed to a buckle having a circular center opening and transverse slots through which a woven webbing or tape is laced so that the webbing is firmly held and will not slip when either end of the tape is pulled (col. 1, lns. 22-26). The buckle 10 is formed with a rectangular body 13 having curved end margins 14 (col. 1, lns. 55-56). The intermediate ribs 17 and the transverse bars 18 are bent in a concave shape so that the transverse slot edges 16a and 16b are displaced downwardly in a vertical direction from the arcuate opening

15 and the buckle lip margin 14 respectively (col. 1, lns. 67-72). As shown in figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, Ostolaza teaches away from the structural formation of amended Claims 3 and 8 of the present invention having "first and second distal ends that are bent backwards to form an approximately obtuse angle with the back surface". Concerning Claim 2 which is canceled and herein incorporated into amended Claim 3, the Ostolaza reference fails to teach a buckle "wherein the third slot is further configured to receive the second end of the strap after the second end is wrapped around the first blade." Instead, Ostolaza disclose a buckle engaged with and linking together the free ends 11 and 11a of a strip of material 12 (col. 1, lns. 51-52).

As stated by the Examiner, regarding Claims 3-6, the prior art of record does not suggest reconfiguring the strap of Ostolaza in the manner required of Claim 3. Therefore, applicant submits that amended independent Claims 3 and 8 and dependant Claims 9 and 10 are allowable over the Ostolaza reference and request reconsideration and allowance.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 4,262,406 to Fredrickson et al. Herein, Claim 7 has been canceled and Claim 8 has been amended to distinctly claim over Fredrickson et al.

The Fredrickson et al. reference, as shown in figures 9 and 10 is directed to a three slot-strap fastener having a plate with three slots 62, 64, and 66, and opposed side portions 71 and 72, opposed end portions 73 and 74, and intermediate portions 75 and 76. However, Fredrickson et al. does not teach nor suggest "the elongated body having a front surface and a back surface such that the first and second distal ends are bent backwards to form an approximately 125 degree obtuse angle with the back surface" as amended Claim 8 recites. The structurally improved angled distal ends of the present invention are configured to eliminate to loosening of the belt, or strap, by providing two locking points A and B at each distal end of the buckle. Therefore, applicant submits that amended independent Claim 8 and dependant Claims 9 and 10 are allowable over the cited reference and solicits reconsideration and allowance.

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CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the pending Claims 3-6 and 8-10 recite subject matter that is not taught or suggested by the references neither alone nor in combination. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections, and issue a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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Applicant